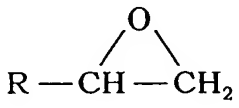
Amendments to the Claims

Please amend Claims 4, 5, 6 and 8 as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~strikethrough~~ for deleted matter and underlining for added matter). A complete listing of the claims are listed below with proper claim identifiers.

1. (Original) A regenerated collagen fiber which is obtained by treating collagen with a monofunctional epoxy compound and an aluminum salt.

2. (Original) The regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 1, wherein said monofunctional epoxy compound is a compound represented by the following formula (I):



(I)

in which R indicates a substituent group represented by R_1-, R_2-O-CH_2- or R_2-COO-CH_2-, R_1 in said substituent group indicates a hydrocarbon group having at least 2 carbon atoms or CH_2Cl and R_2 indicates a hydrocarbon group having at least 4 carbon atoms.

3. (Original) The regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 2, wherein said R_1 in the formula (I) indicates a hydrocarbon group having 2 to 6 carbon atoms or -CH_2Cl and R_2 indicates a hydrocarbon group having 4 to 6 carbon atoms.

4. (Currently Amended) The regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 1, 2 or 3, wherein ~~a methionine group in said collagen is~~said collagen has a sulfoxidized methionine group or a sulfonated methionine group.

5. (Currently Amended) A process for preparing the regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 1 ~~which comprises~~comprising the steps of treating said collagen with a

monofunctional epoxy compound, and then treating ~~the same~~said collagen in such a way that 2 to 40% by weight of an aluminum salt converted to an aluminum oxide basis is contained to said collagen.

6. (Currently Amended) The process for preparing a regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 5, ~~wherein~~comprising the additional step of treating said collagen ~~is treated~~ with an oxidant and then ~~treated~~treating said collagen with the monofunctional epoxy compound and the aluminum salt.

7. (Original) The process for preparing a regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 6, wherein said oxidant is hydrogen peroxide.

8. (Currently Amended) A process for setting a regenerated collagen fiber ~~which comprises~~comprising the steps of thermally setting the regenerated collagen fiber of Claim 1, 2 or 3 by means of hot water treatment at 20° to 100°C and a heat drying treatment at 60° to 220°C.